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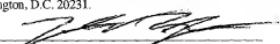
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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to The Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.



Derrick Brown

**ATTN: PATENT APPLICATION**  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Patent Application Entitled "METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR DETERMINING A CRITICAL DIMENSION, A PRESENCE OF DEFECTS, AND A THIN FILM CHARACTERISTIC OF A SPECIMEN" -- Levy, et al.

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is a disclosure including a title page, a 273 page specification, 1131 pages of claims (Claims 1-6632), and a one page abstract. In addition, we have also included 27 formal drawings on 23 sheets. The disclosure and drawings constitute the application of Ady Levy, Kyle Brown, Rodney Smedt, Gary Bultman, Mehrdad Nikoonahad, Dan Wack, and John Fielden for the above-entitled invention.

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/234,323 entitled "METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR SEMICONDUCTOR FABRICATION PROCESSES" filed September 20, 2000.

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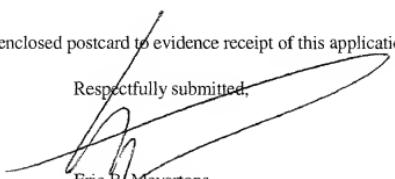
Please note that this application is filed without an inventor Declaration and filing fees. Applicant requests the Patent and Trademark Office to accept this application and accord a serial number and filing date as of the date this application is deposited with the U.S. Postal Service for Express Mail. Further, the Applicant requests that the NOTICE OF MISSING PARTS-FILING DATE GRANTED be sent to the undersigned Applicant representative.

Please address all correspondence in connection with this application to:

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Please date stamp and return the enclosed postcard to evidence receipt of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attorney for Applicant

EBM:amm  
Enclosures